

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 315

S.P. 103

In Senate, January 31, 2017

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Apply for
Funds for Rail Improvements**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative SHEATS of Auburn and
Senator: ROSEN of Hancock, Representatives: BROOKS of Lewiston, BRYANT of
Windham, FULLER of Lewiston, GOLDEN of Lewiston, GRANT of Gardiner, HANDY of
Lewiston, PARRY of Arundel.

1 **Sec. 1. Department of Transportation to seek federal funds. Resolved:**
2 That the Department of Transportation, referred to in this resolve as "the department,"
3 shall pursue all federal funding that may be available to develop, improve and expand
4 passenger rail service in the State, including:

5 1. Seeking grants provided by the United States Department of Transportation,
6 Federal Railroad Administration, including:

7 A. Consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements grants under the federal
8 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, Section 11301
9 (2015);

10 B. Federal-state partnership for state of good repair grants under the federal Fixing
11 America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, Section 11302 (2015);
12 and

13 C. Restoration and enhancement grants under the federal Fixing America's Surface
14 Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, Section 11303 (2015);

15 2. Identifying the eligibility of possible passenger rail projects to receive grants
16 provided by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit
17 Administration under the fixed guideway capital investment grant program under 49
18 United States Code, Section 5309 (2015); and

19 3. If the Federal Government amends or creates new grant programs for passenger
20 rail, considering the eligibility of possible passenger rail projects under those amended or
21 new grant programs; and be it further

22 **Sec. 2. Report on passenger rail development. Resolved:** That the
23 department shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no
24 later than December 1, 2017, describing the status of grants requested to that date
25 pursuant to this resolve. The report required by this section must include but is not
26 limited to:

27 1. Details of applications submitted for each grant program;

28 2. The amount of state funding required as a match for federal funds received or
29 under consideration; and

30 3. Recommendations for how the State could be a more competitive applicant for
31 any relevant grant programs.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to pursue various federal
34 passenger rail grants and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no
35 later than December 1, 2017 on the details of the grant applications, the amount of state
36 matching funds required and recommendations for how the State can be a more
37 competitive applicant for federal passenger rail grants.